

Building Safety News

November 2007

Idaho Division of Building Safety

Volume 2, Issue 1

C. L. "Butch" Otter, Governor

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Safety, Governor C. L. "Butch" Otter stressed that he wanted agency administrators to "find a better way" to do business. He further stressed the need to apply as many good business principles to the operation of government as could be affected.

To this end, when I assumed my responsibilities at the Division, we began to look at possibilities for improving the ways we conduct business.

A Better Way

By C. Kelly Pearce, *Administrator*

During my final interview for the position as Administrator of the Division of Building

The "spirit" I found among employees in the agency was indeed encouraging. With the vision of improvement, many employees were empowered to lead out and suggest "a better way" to operate.

The Division was already well underway in the reorganization of the various administrative units within each of the major bureaus, into a cohesive Office Services Group (OSG). Since then, we have embarked on the development of the Customer Access System (CAS); implemented flex-time work schedules, both in the office and in the field,

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Evolution Continues at DBS

By Steve Keys, *Deputy Administrator*

Two years ago, the Division of Building Safety set out on a journey to excellence. Today, objectively, we are about half way there, and the pace is about to quicken dramatically. DBS has recently signed a contract with CRW Systems of San Diego, California, to provide the software system known inside our agency as CAS – the Customer Access System. The implementation of this software system is the final component in moving DBS to the head of the line in terms of customer service and easy access. Over the next six months, agency staff will be working hard to learn the components of the new system, and to build the customer service interfaces that will facilitate your use of it. We look forward to having the system completely installed and available for use by May of 2008, finally!

Others will bring you specifics of CAS in the months ahead, but I think it is appropriate to look at the steps that have taken place in DBS operations in the last two years. First, the structure of the agency has been constantly scrutinized, and many facets of the operation of the agency have been consolidated and streamlined. Heading the list is OSG, the Operations Services Group, which handles most of the everyday customer service with those involved in the plumbing, HVAC, and electrical contracting industries. Prior to formation of this group, each individual bureau had its own support staff and leadership structure. Now, these customer service functions have been consolidated into one unit,

with dedicated workgroups handling the various processes that are common to the three bureaus. These are the licensing, permitting, and inspection support functions. I am happy to say that OSG has been a great success, with employees being cross-trained to handle multiple functions, and as a result, enabling DBS to offer extended customer service hours during the summer months. The extended hours have been well-received by industry, and will become a normal procedure for the summer months. Also, the cross-training of staff has facilitated flexible work schedules for OSG employees who love the program.

In the time leading up to buying the new CRW Software, DBS staff has worked along with consultants to identify and streamline the operational processes and underlying regulations that affect our work. At the same time, we increased the training opportunities for our staff, and emphasized customer service. As a result, many changes have been made both in policy and procedure to boost our customer service and simplify the implementation of the new Customer Access System. We believe this has been a very productive effort.

So, what can a DBS stakeholder look for in the next few months? First, more change, and increased stress on DBS staff as our employees are trained and become familiar with the new system.

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Notes from the Field - Area Supervisors Reports

North Idaho – Rod Freligh

Region One Plumbing/HVAC Supervisor

The summer of 2007 was another busy season for the Coeur d'Alene field office, the boundaries of which are the Canadian border south to White Bird.

Although nearly 200 fewer plumbing permits were issued than in the same period in 2006 (June 1 – August 31), permit fees exceeded 2006's total by nearly 10%, an indication of more commercial and multi-family projects. HVAC permits and permit fees were nearly identical for 2006 and 2007, as were Electrical permits.

We welcomed a new plumbing inspector, Kevin Creighton, electrical inspector Kevin Hubble was relocated to the Lewiston area from the south and Terry Blessing accepted the newly created position of Licensing Outreach Advisor for the northern area.



Terry Blessing receiving Certificate of Appreciation from Kelly Pearce.

Logging Safety Advisor Don Hull was busy keeping our loggers safe and happened to catch sight of a brand new forest fire. He was able to call it in before any large scale damage was done.

The CDA field office is open 8 am – 5 pm, Monday – Friday to handle any of your permitting or inspection needs. 208-769-1579.

Southwest Idaho – Pete Peterson

Region Two Plumbing/HVAC Supervisor

This past year in Area II, the Plumbing Inspectors saw an increase in unlisted fixture installations, specifically, bathroom lavs. These fixtures range from rock, copper and glass to galvanized. The trend is being fed by home improvement centers, television, and plumbing supply showrooms.

This is a hot issue because these violations typically aren't discovered until the end phases of a project when time is critical.

In an effort to prevent future problems, the Division of Building Safety has taken a proactive approach by providing the information for the acceptable listing agencies to both contractors and plumbing supply showrooms.

The following are a few of the accepted testing and listing agencies:

www.iapmo.org

www.nsf.org

Southcentral Idaho – Rick Brown

Region Three Plumbing/HVAC Supervisor

We are still busy in the Jerome area. Two new schools are in progress. There is also a new car dealership being built, a new 105 unit motel is in progress and numerous other commercial projects are underway, along with a lot of new housing.

In the Buhl area, a \$100 million canola plant will soon be under construction.

In the Minidoka-Cassia County area, two new ethanol plants are under construction, along with a geothermal plant at Raft River. Construction activity throughout south-central Idaho continues at a brisk pace.



The cooling tower facility for the Raft River geothermal energy plant being built south of Malta. Energy production is expected before next spring.

Southeastern Idaho – Chris Critser

Region Four Plumbing/HVAC Supervisor

We are starting to wind down from another busy summer in most counties throughout the region. With inspection activity beginning to slow, we are redirecting our efforts into other things such as permit maintenance, silent enforcement, education and other areas that could use more attention.

I would like to thank all the inspectors in Area Four for all their hard work over a very busy construction season. I would also like to thank everyone in the Meridian office for taking care of our requests from the field and their willingness to help each of the inspectors as needed.

New Electrical Code Changes will Affect Contractors, Homeowners and Others

By Jeff Fitzloff, *Electrical Bureau Chief*

The 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC) was introduced in September 2007 at the Northwest Section Meeting of The International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI). I had the pleasure of submitting and following my code proposals through the complete process.

During the proposal stage the code panels addressed 3,688 publicly proposed changes to the 2005 NEC during a two week period from January 9–21, 2006. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) then published two books. The first was the Report on Proposals which documented the meetings and the second was a Draft of Proposed 2008 NEC. Public comments that were submitted on these publications were collected and numbered 2349 for the meeting that was held from November 28 through December 9, 2006. The book on comments was published with an opportunity for the public to submit objections or additions. If an objection or addition was submitted and found to be valid, the person objecting had an opportunity to present at the World Safety Congress in June of 2007.

In July of 2007, the Standards Council issued what has now become the 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC). It then became the task of the Idaho Electrical Board to adopt or reject all or any part of the NEC. The Idaho Electrical board has proposed a rule change to adopt the 2008 NEC on July 1, 2008. This still requires the approval of the legislature and the governor before the rule takes affect.

I have outlined some of the changes that I have found to be significant.

A definition of 'clothes closet' is now in Article 100 and should help to define this space.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter protection exceptions have been

removed on residences. This change will affect garages, basements and, yes, even freezers. When I saw that this was proposed, I plugged my freezer into the GFCI receptacle in my garage and, at this time, it has yet to trip (the changes that have been made to these devices have made a difference).

Arc Fault protection was to be expanded throughout the house, but the Idaho Electrical Board proposes to leave that as it is in the 2005 NEC.

Now, over-current devices may not be located over the steps of a stairway.

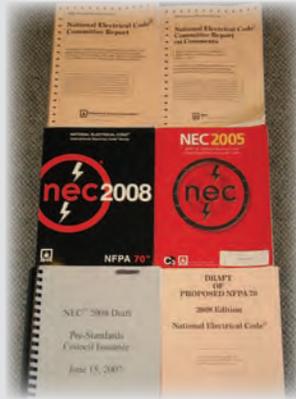
The equipment ground will now be required to be carried along to other buildings fed from a service; we will no longer bond in a building being fed from a service.

You will now be able to use panels that will have more than 42 over current devices in them; this number will now be determined by design.

Receptacles in residences will have a new requirement that they be Tamper Resistant; these are not tamperproof, such as in hospitals, but will add safety by making it very difficult to insert foreign objects into them.

The code panel on swimming pools made changes to the bonding of the paved and unpaved surfaces. The way it reads implies that if you had a wooden deck, you would need a copper wire under it; the Idaho Electrical Board has chosen to set this requirement back to the 2002 NEC requirements.

I'm very sure that there are more changes that will affect other areas, but the National Electrical Code is a work in progress and the safety of persons and property is the main concern. If you feel strongly that a change is needed, please start your proposals now as the 2011 NEC process will start in the fall of 2008.



New Code Changes for Contractors and Homeowners Performing HVAC Installation

By Russ Owen, *HVAC Code Specialist*

In the spirit of keeping everyone informed as code requirements evolve, HVAC contractors and technicians should be aware that effective January 1, 2008, and in accordance with the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code, the State of Idaho HVAC Inspection Division will be checking for compliance with the minimum duct installation values as prescribed in the 2006 International Code as follows:

(It should be noted that these values will also be shown on the 2006 Com Check and Res Check Energy Compliance Reports.)

2006 International Energy Conservation Code (Residential Structures) Section 403.2 Duct Insulation:

Supply and return ducts shall be insulated to a minimum of R-8. Ducts in floor trusses shall be insulated to a minimum of R-6 (ducts located under floor trusses would still require R-8).

Exception:

1. Ducts, or portions thereof, located completely inside the building thermal envelope.

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Evolution Continues

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Second, and more important, you can look forward in spring of 2008 to being able to conduct your business with DBS much more efficiently. You will be able to purchase permits, renew licenses, and request inspections online via the Internet. Contractors and property owners will also be able to check the status of inspections and licensees can check the progress of their applications twenty-four hours a day. And guess what? You can look forward to training opportunities for you to become familiar with CAS!

What if you don't have access to the Internet? The system will be configured so that many features will be available over a regular telephone line, and even if you prefer doing business in person or via voice lines, our staff will have enhanced access to the information they need to answer your questions.

DBS staff asks you to hang on and join us as we prepare for the best part of the ride! If you have suggestions or ideas, please feel free to contact me at 332-8986, or via e-mail at skeys@db.s.idaho.gov.

New Code Changes - HVAC Installation

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2006 International Energy Conservation Code (Commercial Structures) Section 503.2.7 Duct and plenum insulation:

All supply and return ducts and plenums shall be insulated with a minimum of R-5 insulation when located in unconditioned spaces and with a minimum R-8 insulation when located outside the building.

When located within a building envelope assembly, the duct or plenum shall be separated from the building exterior or unconditioned or exempt spaces by a minimum of R-8 insulation.

Exceptions:

1. When located within equipment.
2. When the design temperature difference between the interior and the exterior of the duct or plenum does not exceed 15 degrees F.

Com Check and Res Check software can be downloaded at www.energycodes.gov

North Idaho Field Office -- At Your Service

Amanda Brumbaugh, DBS Permits & Finance Team

Contractors and property owners in Northern Idaho - we have a location that caters to you! All permits for Northern Idaho can be mailed directly to the Coeur d'Alene office for faster turn around time.

Our Coeur d'Alene staff has the knowledge and skills to help you with all of the following items:

- ✓ Get a permit for Electrical, Plumbing or HVAC
- ✓ Pay for permits
- ✓ Mail permits and payment directly to the CDA office
- ✓ Apply for a license
- ✓ Renew a license
- ✓ Turn in licensing paperwork
- ✓ Request an inspection
- ✓ Talk to an inspector for code questions
- ✓ Anything else?...bring it by or give us a call; we will help

Remember, when mailing or dropping off anything at one of our offices, that you fill out all information on permit and license forms.

➡ Please pay particular attention to your permits to ensure that they include owner name and address, property address of work being done, city (even if it is in an unincorporated area of a county you must fill out the closest city to the location) and all applicable fees.

➡ Please ensure that valid addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses are provided on all license forms.

We are located in Coeur d'Alene at 1250 Ironwood Dr. Suite 220 and can be reached at 208-769-1579.

Our staff includes:

- Jeri Groth, Ext 240
- Shirley Knoles, Ext 221
- Rod Freligh, Ext 227 – Plumbing/HVAC Inspection Supervisor
- Tom Loudin, Ext 229 – Electrical Inspection Supervisor



Coeur d'Alene Office



North Idaho Office and Field Staff

A Better Way

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to accommodate the need for extended summer daylight hours without any overtime cost; and began the systematic replacement of gas guzzling 4-wheel drive pickups and SUV's, with hybrids and ethanol (E85) compatible vehicles. Additional cost savings have been realized in conjunction with procedural changes such as printing only one envelope for use in correspondence with three different bureaus; reducing the Modular Building application process from using as many as 20 pages to that of a single page application; and consolidating all plan reviews into a single unit comprised of a representative of each of the trade and code skills.

Many other initiatives are underway in the Division. Obviously, one is the preparation and release of this newsletter. The Division plans to continue to make strides to be more responsive to our customers needs. We believe this is "a better way".

~~~~~WELCOME ~~~~~



The Division of Building Safety welcomes Bobby Dye who has accepted the position of Program Manager for Industrial Safety. He brings a wealth of knowledge in this area to us.

Changes in Store for Commercial HVAC Code Review Process

By Carl Lohrengel III, Plumbing/HVAC Bureau Chief

In accord with the requirements of the International Mechanical Code, the Division of Building Safety HVAC Bureau will begin requiring a mechanical code review for all commercial projects in our inspection jurisdiction effective January 1, 2008. Plans will need to be submitted to the Meridian office. No mechanical permit will be issued after the first of the year for a commercial project until plans have been reviewed and approved. Plans can be submitted either on paper or on CD's, using a PDF format.

Many of you are familiar with the plan review process utilized for State buildings and public schools throughout the State. The new mechanical code review process will be very similar to the existing program, and will aid DBS in building a safer Idaho. The Division will do everything possible to expedite reviews of these commercial projects and fully expects the review process to facilitate the subsequent inspections of the facilities as they are constructed. Currently, many problems attributable to new code requirements, new products, and revised installation standards are not discovered until well into the construction process. Commercial kitchens are common culprits because of the variety of equipment, hoods, grease ducts, and insulation materials utilized. The new mechanical code review should mitigate these issues.

The Division of Building Safety will keep you informed regarding procedures and fees for mechanical code review as the implementation date approaches. Please watch your mail and check the DBS website for further information as it becomes available.

Plans Review Consolidation Offers More Convenience, Increased Efficiency

By Arlan Smith, Plans Review Program Manager

The plan review functions of DBS have been consolidated into a single program. All of the plans examiners for the various disciplines are located together both physically and organizationally. The plan review program is located at the east end of our building with a separate entrance. The phone numbers are the same but the address is: Suite 120 at 1090 East Watertower Street, Meridian, ID 83642.

To maintain the quality and speed of our reviews, all plan review functions are under the direction of one manager. Other than the suite number being added to the address, the only changes you should notice are improvements. The first of these is the consolidation of all the plan review findings into a single report and easy multidiscipline plan review consultations.

DBS plan review services are also available to city and county building departments. DBS personnel are very experienced with the complex structures that some local building officials have requested assistance with. We can provide plan review services to fit the needs of building officials in all Idaho jurisdictions. For information and cost, please call Arlan Smith at 208 332-7123 or email your inquiry to asmith@dbs.idaho.gov.



Rusty Boyer and Russ Owen

Apprentice Supervision & Training – Critical to Safety and Quality Work

By Al Caine

Licensing Outreach and Compliance Program Manager

Plumbing, electrical and HVAC apprentices are required to be supervised by a licensed journeyman and must be enrolled in, and participate in, the related apprenticeship school. There are, however, differences in the requirements for each trade.

Plumbing and electrical apprentices require constant on-the-job supervision. This means that when the apprentice is performing electrical work (for electricians), or plumbing work (for plumbers), a journeyman in the respective trade must be present on the jobsite.

HVAC apprentices are required to be under the supervision of a journeyman, but may be on the jobsite for short periods of time without the presence of a journeyman. The journeyman must be available for guidance within a short period of time.

The intent of the supervision requirement is threefold. First and foremost is safety; safety for the apprentice, safety for the co-workers and safety for installation to ultimately ensure the safety of the building and its occupants. Second, is training; rather than learning by making mistakes, with proper on-the-job training the apprentice learns how to do the job the right way the first time. By learning the “tricks of the trade” from a seasoned journeyman the task is also accomplished more efficiently. This keeps the cost of the job down and virtually eliminates the need for call-backs and correction notices that result from inexperience. Finally, the

customer, whether that be a builder, general contractor, or building owner, expects that when they hire a contractor licensed by the State of Idaho, the work will be done by qualified people. It is not the expectation that their installation is to be accomplished by untrained or inadequately supervised individuals who are learning by making mistakes on their building.

Plumbing and HVAC apprentices are required to be enrolled in, and participating in, apprenticeship school for every year of their apprenticeship in order to maintain a valid apprentice registration. Electrical apprentices must also be enrolled in, and participating in, school within each two year period. In other words, in order to maintain an active apprentice registration, they must have completed a year of school within the last two years.

The related training requirement fulfills the need for “classroom” training. This training cannot be accomplished on the jobsite while workers are being paid by the customer. Customers seem to frown on the contractor's employees sitting down and studying on their jobsites. As all of you who are performing work in these trades understand, the installation methods, materials and requirements con-

tinue to evolve and become more complex. Classroom training is the only way to provide the fundamentals so that these methods and requirements can be understood.

Licensing, and the requirements for licensing, have come from the demand by industry to provide for the need of a trained workforce that will provide safe buildings for Idahoans to work and live in. Please contact me, or the appropriate members of the staff of the Division of Building Safety, if you have any questions (or suggestions) regarding these requirements. Contact information can be found on our website dbs.idaho.gov.



Adoption of 2006 ICC Building and Energy Codes Delayed in a Number of Local Jurisdictions

By Jack Rayne, *Building Bureau Chief*

If you are an engineer, architect, home designer, builder or homeowner/do-it-yourselfer, and you have questions about which version of building or energy code may apply to a particular construction project, you should contact your local city or county building department.

Since March of 1977, adoption and enforcement of building and energy codes in Idaho has been optional for local units of government. Legislation was adopted in 2002 to establish “uniformity” with regard to locally established building code enforcement programs statewide. However, it applies only to local governments that “opt in” to adoption and enforcement of building and energy codes.

This uniformity concept was initiated with the 2002 legislature's adoption of the 2000 editions of the International Code Council's Building, Residential and Energy Conservation Codes. In 2004, the Building Code Act was again amended to require adoption and implementation of the 2003 I-Codes for application by the Division of Building Safety and local code adopting jurisdictions.

Local governments have been given until January 1, 2008 to begin enforcement of the I-Codes adopted through the rule promulgation process, as approved by the 2007 session of the Idaho Legislature, and adopted by DBS in April of this year. It will be important for you to know if, and when, your local building code enforcement authority plans to adopt the new codes.

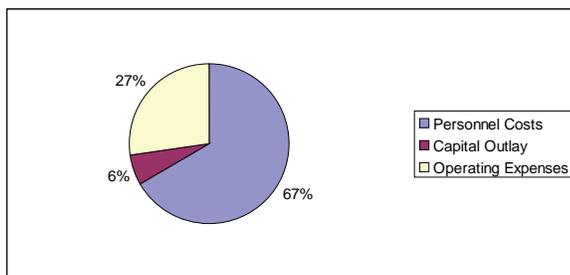
Dollars to Sense

By Eric Fieldstad, *Deputy Administrator*

It was once said, “Money can’t buy you happiness. But it sure can go a long way in paying the bills.” Have you ever wondered how the Division of Building Safety receives its spending authority?

Most of us work under the assumption that the financial transactions of the State of Idaho are done behind close doors, and that only a few select employees who work in the Finance Department are privy to how the budget system works.

The key element to the financing of the day-to-day operations of the Division is called the Annual Budget. So, how does it work? The Annual Budget is prepared each year and is made up of three parts:



(1) Personnel Costs – Simply stated, personnel costs represent the cost of employing state workers. But there is a lot more to it than just paychecks. Personnel costs includes salaries, fringe benefits to include health and dental insurance, employer’s share of social security, workmen’s compensation coverage, retirement, etc..

(2) Operating Expenses – Operating Expenses includes rent payments on the buildings we use, fuel for our vehicles, utilities, training costs, printing and mailing fees, and all of the other day-to-day expenses that go to support our daily activities in both the office and out in the field.

(3) Capital Outlay – Capital Outlay is pretty much those “big ticket” items. It includes the purchase of motor vehicles, computer hardware, and other capital equipment.

Once the Annual Budget is submitted to the Governor’s Office, it is considered to become part of the Governor’s Annual Budget Request. There are a lot of questions and answers going on behind the scenes as the budget undergoes an item-by-item review by the Governor’s budget staff. Once in the Governor’s Annual Budget Request, it is sent to the Idaho Legislature. The committee within the Idaho Legislature that handles funding bills and authors each agency’s appropriations bill, is the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC). Each year the Administrator of the Division of Building Safety makes an appearance before JFAC and makes a plea for full consideration of the Division’s Annual Budget Request.



Photo courtesy of Idaho Statesman

After the budget hearing before JFAC, an appropriations bill is forthcoming and voted on by both the Idaho House of Representatives and the Idaho Senate. Once the funding bill is voted on and passed

by both houses, the appropriation bill goes to the Governor for signing. Once signed, it becomes “law” and serves as the basis for the authorization for expenditure of funds for the next upcoming fiscal year (July 1st through June 30th). As you can see, the budgeting process encompasses the entire year and, with the start of each new fiscal year, the cycle begins anew.



Dave Hiatt, Darla Dobbins, Ben Barfus
DBS Financial Team

To their credit, our team that works so hard to put the Annual Budget together consists of Dave Hiatt, Darla Dobbins and Ben Barfus.

So, as you go about your daily tasks and missions, you can rest assured that the financial welfare of the Division is in good hands.

The Division of Building Safety hosted the Governor's Cabinet Meeting on September 25, 2007 at the Meridian Office



State of Idaho
 Division of Building Safety
 1090 E. Watertower St.
 Meridian, ID 83642

We are on the web at
dbs.idaho.gov

This newsletter is published by the
 Idaho Division of Building Safety
 If you have comments
 or suggestions, call Bill Hatch,
 Public Information Officer, at
 (208) 334-3950 or write DBS at
 the address above.



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DBS BOARD MEETINGS

Board Meetings to be held (*unless otherwise noted*) at:

Division of Building Safety
 Board Conference Room
 1090 E. Watertower Street
 Meridian, Idaho

Electrical Board	FEB 21 - MERIDIAN MAY 15 - POCATELLO JUL 29 - POST FALLS OCT 16 - MERIDIAN
Plumbing Board	JAN 11 - MERIDIAN APR 11 - IDAHO FALLS JUN 20 - MERIDIAN AUG 22 - POST FALLS
HVAC Board	FEB 5 - MERIDIAN MAY 14 - POCATELLO JUL 30 - POST FALLS OCT 7 - MERIDIAN
Public Works Contractors Licensing Board	JAN 7 - MERIDIAN APR 7 - MERIDIAN JUL 7 - MERIDIAN OCT 6 - MERIDIAN
Building Board	TO BE ANNOUNCED
Manufactured Housing Board	TO BE ANNOUNCED
Modular Building Advisory Board	TO BE ANNOUNCED

Holidays outlined & highlighted in gray

2008



New! Live audio broadcasts of Board meetings.
 Go to the DBS Board website - dbs.idaho.gov/boards
 Click on the link "Audio Streaming"